

News from Ed Markey

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: David Moulton(Markey)

July 20, 2004

(202) 225-2836

Rep. Markey, Sen. Kennedy and Sen. Kerry Secure \$50 Million in Federal Funds for Convention Security

Washington, D.C. - Rep. Edward Markey (D-MA), Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and Senator John Kerry (D-MA) announced today that they have secured an additional \$50 million in federal funds to help defray the unprecedented security costs of the Presidential Nominating Conventions. The Defense Appropriations bill which was finalized today includes \$25 million for the Democratic National Convention in Boston and \$25 million for the Republican National Convention in New York. In the face of mounting security concerns, Boston Mayor Menino and New York Mayor Bloomberg sought the assistance of the leaders of both the Massachusetts and New York delegations to secure these additional funds. Markey, Kennedy, and Kerry led the effort for the Democrats on behalf of Boston and the Democratic National Convention.

Rep. Markey said, "We are grateful that the Appropriations Committee recognized the importance of ensuring the security of the first Presidential Nominating Conventions since September 11th. Thanks to the combined efforts of Rep. Capuano, Rep. Lynch and the Massachusetts delegation, we were able to include funding for this important priority. The bombing in Madrid made clear that terrorist organizations are very interested in targeting high profile events that symbolize the freedoms our country enjoys. A successful attack at either Convention would be a devastating blow to the political process and to our country's collective psyche. This additional funding will help ensure that Boston and New York have the tools needed to do the job of protecting the American people during these important public celebrations of our democracy"

Senator Kennedy said, "These funds are essential support for the dedicated professionals working to see that our city has state-of-the-art protection for residents, delegates, and visitors alike during next week's convention," Senator Kennedy said. "I look forward to an inspiring week for Boston, Massachusetts, and the Nation."

Senator Kerry said, "This additional security funding will help the city protect the people of Boston and the thousands who will visit us in the coming days. I thank Senator Kennedy, Representative Markey, the Congressional delegation and Mayor Menino for the hard work they did to obtain this critical funding. It will go along way to offset the cost of hosting the safest convention possible," said Senator Kerry.

Several factors have greatly and rapidly increased the security cost burdens on Boston and New York, including the recent bombings in Madrid and Moscow.

#